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# Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15
PRS-01 SP-02 /067 W
----------101397 200104Z /70
R 191403Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1385
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 3460

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH FACTORY WORKERS FEDERATION ATTACKS FIRESTONE COMPANY FOR PLANT SHUT-DOWN

REF: STOCKHOLM 2466

1. RECENTLY THE MANAGEMENT OF FIRESTONE-VISKAFORS AB, THE SWEDISH SUBSIDIARY OF THE FIRESTONE TIRE AND RUBBER COMPANY, AKRON, OHIO, NOTIFIED THE APPROXIMATELY 165 EMPLOYEES OF ITS PLANT AT TVAAKER OF ITS DECISION TO CLOSE THE PLANT EARLY IN 1978. THE PRODUCTION OF THE TVAAKER PLANT WILL BE MOVED TO THE FACILITY AT VISKAFORS, ONE OF THE TWO OTHER PLANTS OPERATED BY FIRESTONE COMPANY IN SWEDEN (SEE REFERENCE). THE COMPANY REPORTEDLY COULD NOT PROMISE THESE EMPLOYEES ANY OTHER WORK, AND THERE ARE NO OTHER INDUSTRIES AT TVAAKER THAT CAN SOAK UP THE REDUNDANT MANPOWER.

2. ON AUGUST 19, A LEADING STOCKHOLM NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT ENAR AGREN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SWEDISH FEDERATION OF
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FACTORY WORKERS, IN A COMMUNICATION TO THE INTER-NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CHEMICAL AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION (ICF) IN GENEVA, POINTED TO WHAT HE TERMED "THE REACTIONARY AND HOSTILE ATTITUDE TO TRADE UNIONS" DIS-PLAYED BY FIRESTONE IN SWEDEN. ICF WAS REQUESTED TO PASS ON THIS INFORMATION TO ALL ITS MEMBER UNIONS.

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3. ACCORDING TO THE STOCKHOLM PAPER, ANTS GUSTAF ARO, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF FIRESTONE'S SWEDISH SUBSIDIARY, HAD RECENTLY TOLD THE LOCAL TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES THAT IN THE EVENT HIS COMPANY'S EMPLOYEES WOULD NOT INSIST ON RECEIVING THE WAGE INCREASES NEGOTIATED FOR UNDER THIS YEAR'S WAGE CONTRACTS, "HIS COMPANY WOULD DO BETTER AND THEIR JOBS WOULD BE MORE SECURE." MR. AGREN SAID THE TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES NATURALLY TURNED DOWN MR. ARO'S PROPOSAL. HE ADDED THAT THE PROPOSAL MUST BE SEEN IN THE LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT FIRESTONE'S MANAGEMENT HAS ALWAYS TAKEN A TOUGH ATTITUDE TOWARD LOCAL TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES, AND IT HAS ALWAYS STRIVEN TO KEEP DOWN WAGES AS LOW AS POSSIBLE. AS A RESULT, THE WAGES PAID BY FIRESTONE'S SWEDISH SUBSIDIARY ARE ABOUT 15 PERCENT UNDER THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS IN SWEDEN, CONCLUDED MR. AGREN.
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# Message Attributes

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**Subject:** SWEDISH FACTORY WORKERS FEDERATION ATTACKS FIRESTONE COMPANY FOR PLANT SHUT-DOWN
**TAGS:** EIND, SW, US, FIRESTONE-VISKAFORS AB, FIRESTONE TIRE & RUBBER CO
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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**Review Markings:**
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